

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04066 291047Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 /077 W
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R 290959Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3704
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 4066

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJECT: ASSAD INTERVIEW WITH MUSTAQBAL

REF: (A) STATE 148943 (NOTAL), (B) BEIRUT 3048, (C) KUWAIT 3521,
(D) PARIS 18675

1. ACCORDING TO PRES. ASSAD'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI,
THE MUSTAQBAL INTERVIEW DOES NOT ACCORD WITH SYRIA'S
OFFICIAL POSITION OR VIEW ON LEBANON. EVIDENCE OF THIS,
HE TOLD CHARGE JUNE 28, WAS FACT THAT NO SYRIAN PAPER HAD
PUBLISHED OR MADE REFERENCE TO IT; NORMALLY, SYRIAN PRESS
GIVES WIDE COVERAGE TO PRESIDENT'S "OFFICIAL" INTERVIEWS.

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2. DAOUDI CONTINUED (CONFIRMING BEIRUT REFTTEL) THAT
MUSTAQBAL EDITOR KHOURY HAD HAD LONG PRIVATE CONVERSATION
WITH ASSAD BUT SYRIANS HAD NOT EXPECTED OR AUTHORIZED
PUBLICATION OF CONVERSATION AS AN INTERVIEW.

3. DAOUDI WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, SPECIFICALLY DENY ASSAD'S

ASSERTION IN INTERVIEW THAT US BEHIND LEBANESE EVENTS.
NOR SHOULD WE BE SURPRISED AT SUCH TALK TAKING PLACE IN
PRIVATE ARAB CONFABS. ASSAD HIMSELF HAS ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS IN PAST REVEALED SUCH SUSPICIONS TO US (E.G.,
HIS TALK WITH SENATORS ABOUREZK AND EAGLETON OVER A YEAR
AGO, HIS SPEECH ON LEBANON LAST JULY) AND THE CONSPIRACY
THEORY OF HISTORY HAS MANY ADHERENTS IN DAMASCUS.

4. DIRECTOR OF AFP OFFICE TOLD US HE HAD SUBMITTED FULL
MUSTAQBAL INTERVIEW TO SYRIAN CENSORS FOR PUBLICATION IN
DAILY AFP SUBSCRIPTION NEWS BULLETIN, EXPECTING IT TO BE
REJECTED, BUT CENSORSHIP OFFICE PASSED IT. OFFICE ARABE DE
PRESSE, THE OTHER NEWS DIGEST PUBLISHER IN DAMASCUS, ALSO
PRINTED EXCERPTS OF INTERVIEW.
PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 29-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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